Lights in the Storm

Compare how a story and a poem develop a shared theme.

7.RL.3.B "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details in each text that develop its theme, then circle a story detail and a poem image that show the texts use different approaches.

Two Ways to Carry Light

1 **Story: "The Lantern Shed"** After a windstorm snapped the power lines, Mara found the community lanterns locked in the park shed. Her uncle had the key, but he was across town. "We can wait," said Devon, hugging his dark backpack. Mara looked at the families gathering near the playground. She borrowed a wrench from the custodian, loosened the bent window latch, and passed the lanterns out one by one. The cold rain made the path shine like black glass.

2 By dusk, each lantern held a small flame. Neighbors carried them to porches and shared dry blankets. Devon placed one lamp beside the bus stop, where an older man waited for a ride. When Mara's uncle arrived, he stared at the open shed. Mara expected anger. Instead, he lifted a lantern and said, "You saw what people needed." The next morning, Mara returned the wrench and helped repair the latch. The storm had passed, but the street still felt changed.

③ **Poem: “Light Carried”**

Rain taps the empty swings.
A window opens, then another.
Small flames travel hand to hand,
gold pools on the wet sidewalk.
No hero stands above the street.
Many palms shield one bright spark.
The night is still night,
but no one waits alone.
From porches, voices call names
and answer names in return.
A kettle sings in a kitchen.
Boots cross puddles with soup.
Darkness presses close,
yet the neighborhood makes room
for every face at its door.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What shared theme do the story and the poem develop? Use one detail from each text to support your answer.

2. How does the story develop the theme differently from the poem? Name one technique or feature used in each form.

3. The poem states, “No hero stands above the street.” How does this idea compare with Mara's role in the story?

4. Compare the moods created by the two forms. How does each text move from the storm's danger toward hope?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a theme different from the passage, such as protecting nature or telling the truth. Write a two-sentence microstory and a two-line poem that develop the same theme, then write one sentence explaining how the forms use different approaches.

ANSWER KEY

Lights in the Storm

GRADE 7 · 7.RL.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details in each text that develop its theme, then circle a story detail and a poem image that show the texts use different approaches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What shared theme do the story and the poem develop? Use one detail from each text to support your answer.	**Both texts develop the theme that a community can care for people during hardship. In the story, neighbors share lanterns and blankets. In the poem, many hands protect a spark and people call to one another.**
2	How does the story develop the theme differently from the poem? Name one technique or feature used in each form.	**The story uses characters, actions, and dialogue, such as Mara opening the shed and her uncle speaking to her. The poem uses images and short lines, such as flames passing hand to hand and boots carrying soup.**
3	The poem states, “No hero stands above the street.” How does this idea compare with Mara's role in the story?	**Mara takes an important action, but she is not the only helper. Like the poem, the story shows many people contributing, including Devon, the neighbors, and Mara's uncle.**
4	Compare the moods created by the two forms. How does each text move from the storm's danger toward hope?	**The story moves from worry to relief through a sequence of events, including Mara opening the shed and neighbors helping. The poem creates a quiet, hopeful mood through images of light, voices, food, and people no longer waiting alone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Microstory: Eli noticed plastic bottles trapped along the creek. He filled a bag, and his friends joined him until the water ran clear.

Poem:
Creek, lift your silver voice.
Our hands unhook the trash.

The microstory uses characters and actions, while the poem uses direct images to show protecting nature.

Accept comparable theme statements supported by accurate details from both texts. For the open task, accept varied themes if both forms develop the same theme and the explanation accurately contrasts their approaches.